

The Daily Gazetteer.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14. 1738.

No. 875.

A Sketch of the History of false Patriotism among the Romans.



THE great Use of History, if we consult Reason, or follow the Authority of those who have in all Ages been esteemed Men of Wisdom and Integrity, is to supply the Brevity of Life, and to Benefit Mankind by the Extension of human Experience. Hence it proceeds,

that Observations on History are frequently as beneficial, and sometimes more so, than History itself; the latter being submitted to the private Judgment of every Reader, the former containing the Sentiments not of one, but perhaps of several judicious Men, thrown together for the Assistance of such as want leisure to take the Pains necessary for the right Understanding simple Narrations. It is upon this Plan that I have proceeded in these Reflections upon false Patriotism; I have not arbitrarily laid down my own Sentiments with respect to Facts, their Motives and Consequences, but have collected what I have met with in the best Authors for my Purpose, and have assembled their Observations in order to fix my Readers Judgment as they have my own. This hath been my Method with Respect to the Considerations offered on the States of Athens, Sparta and Carthage, and I shall make Use of the same in what I have farther to lay down, as to the State of Rome.

There have been many and long Disputes as to the Nature of the Roman Constitution under their Kings, and under their Consuls; but I think it is generally agreed, that the dernier Refort, that absolute Authority, which is the Essence of State, and which is therefore to be found some where in all Constitutions, was here in the Roman People: How it came there is a Question I do not remember to have seen moved, and yet I know of none more easily resolved; for it is certain, if we may rely either on the Latin, or on the Greek Historians, that Romulus, as he built the City, was the Legislator of the Citizens; it was he who constituted a Senate for Advice, who reserved the executive Power in his own Hands, and vested the supreme Authority in the popular Assembly. As to the Death of this Prince it is a Mystery hitherto unravelled; one thing however is certain, that those who murdered him were no Patriots; that they did it from Motives of private Interest; that in following these Motives they preferred a Part to the Whole, and that the Roman People had just Reason to regret the Loss of so good a King, and to have his Memory in Reverence. It is also clear, that a Monarch's having the Hearts of his People cannot always protect him; but, on the contrary, may sometimes endanger him, if a Party be formed of Men, considerable for their Abilities and Fortunes, who find their particular Interests not very consistent with those either of Prince or People.

Numa Pompilius, the Successor of Romulus, though he resembled him in no other Respect, was like him, a popular Prince, and fought, in all things he did, the Good of his Subjects. The great Care he had of Religion, hath bred an Opinion, that he was not a Prince of active Abilities; yet whoever looks into the Roman History carefully, will perceive, that it was he who firmly established the Empire which Romulus had raised, and that as much as he was addicted to Peace, he was far from being ignorant of the Arts of Empire. One Instance of this cannot be either improper or tedious. When Numa ascended the Throne, he found himself the Sovereign of two Nations, the Romans and the Sabines, who, though they lived within the same Walls, were far from being united in the same Interests; but, on the contrary, hated each other, and were continually giving public Signs of this hatred. Numa found a Means to correct this Evil without mentioning it, and effectually to extinguish all Jealousies without either the Romans or the Sabines suspecting his Intentions, he observed that his Citizens were most of them Mechanics, he therefore divided them into Companies, each Trade forming a separate Community, authorised to make By Laws for their own Advantage, endeared to each other by peculiar Rites of Religion, and closely

linked by the common Ties of Interest. Numa governed upwards of Forty Years, as happy in himself as he made his People.

Tullus Hostilius, the Third King of Rome, was a martial Prince, who aggrandized the Roman Name, and added also considerably to its Dominions; he was a successful enterprising Prince, but one who stuck to the Maxims of his Predecessors; that is, he fought and conquered only for the People. He was succeeded by Ancus Martius, the Grandson of Numa. He had the Virtues of both his Predecessors, the Wisdom and Justice of Numa, the Courage and military Skill of Hostilius. At the Entrance of his Reign he made Peace his Choice; but when the Latines provoked him he made War his Business. He knew better how to use his Victories than his Predecessors, he greatly enlarged the City, and mightily increased the People. He extended his Conquests as far as the Sea, and laid the Foundation of the City Ostia, and projected the adding all the Benefits of Trade to that martial Spirit which Romulus had infused, and to that wise Respect for the civil Establishment which Numa had fixed on the Romans. As for the Constitution he meddled with it no farther than to keep it in order; he gave the Senate no Reason to take Umbrage at his Conduct; and as for the People, they look'd upon him as their common Parent. Two Things especially endeared him to the Bulk of his Subjects; the one, his adorning Rome with public Buildings; the other, his improving War into an Art, which filled the Romans with such high Ideas of their own Prowess, that they readily followed the King in all his Expeditions, and by their Confidence in his Conduct, contributed not a little to his Success.

Tarquinus Priscus was the fifth King of Rome, and by far the most consummate Politician that hitherto had governed: His Views were of the same Nature with those of his Predecessors, but they were abundantly more extensive. In War he added Conquest to Conquest, Triumph to Triumph; in Peace he introduced all the Greek Eloquence, for he was by Descent a Greek, into the City of Rome. He was not content to imitate, and even to outdo Ancus Martius in public Buildings: He undertook for the publick Utility a Work, the Worth of which Posterity could only Praise. This was the common Sewers, which by his Directions were so wisely disposed and executed with so much Care, that Eight hundred Years afterwards they struck with Amazement those whose Works are the Admiration of our Times. In the midst of all this Greatness, Tarquin sought not to extend his Power beyond the Bounds set by the Constitution. The Supreme Power was left in the People, before them he suffered himself to be tried on a false Accusation for Murder, supported by the Sons of Ancus Martius his Predecessor, and when he was acquitted, and had his Accusers in his Power, he dismissed them without hurt. But though his Innocence protected him before the People, these unworthy Princes found means to murder him, under Pretence of bringing a Cause before him while he sat in the Seat of Justice.

Servius Tullius, who had married the Daughter of Tarquin succeeded, and succeeded with all the Abilities requisite to make him a worthy King of the Romans, and the Successor of so great a Prince as Tarquin. All that his Predecessor had gained he not only preserved to the Romans, but augmented. He gave the most shining Testimonies of his Courage and Conduct in War, and yet he depended much more on his Skill in the Arts of Peace for the Establishment of his Glory. All the Roman Kings had loved the People, yet Servius exceeded them all. He made it the whole Business of his Life to contrive the Means of making them happy. Providence had blessed him with a large private Fortune, and he made use of it to bless his Citizens. He saw the meaner Sort of People exceedingly embarrassed by their Debts, which happened thus: Every Roman Citizen was, by the Constitution, obliged to serve in War, and obliged to serve at his own Expence; this brought the meaner Sort of People into inexpressible Difficulties. While they were in the Field their domestic Affairs suffered excessively; and on the other hand, to furnish them with Subsistence, they were constrained to take up Money from the Rich. Thus the Law, by obliging

them to serve in War, made them Beggars, and by giving their Creditors a Power to seize their Bodies on Non-payment, made them Slaves in Time of Peace. This Servius saw with Regret; his Generosity helped him to a Method of redressing this Evil for the present, his Policy enabled him to put a Check to it for the time to come. Out of his own Purse he discharged all the Debts of the Poor, and by dividing the People into Classes, he provided that Men should no longer be taxed by the Head, but according to their Condition. Can we wonder that such a Prince was the Darling of his People? No, certainly; but we must surely be surprized, when we reflect that he was murdered in the Senate by his Son-in-Law, and that his Daughter drove over his half-dead Corpse in her Chariot, all Rome being unavenging Spectators!

BUT it may be said, what is this to the History of false Patriotism? I answer, that as every one of the six Kings stood distinguished by his Patriotism, so all their Opponents, and every one of them, except Numa, met with great and fatal Opposition; all their Opponents, I say, were so many false Patriots, and we may see by what they did, what false Patriots are always inclined to do, and what must be the Fate of a People led or deceived by such false Patriots. We all know into what an Abyss of Misery the Romans were plunged under Tarquin the Proud, the Successor, by the Pusillanimity of the People, of Servius Tullius; and to what Cause can we possibly ascribe it, but their want of Zeal and Loyalty to those Princes who were truly Patriots? And on the other hand, if this was the true and sole Cause of Tarquin's Tyranny, and the Misery of the Romans, how careful ought every Nation under a limited Monarchy to be, of plunging themselves into the same Misfortunes, by either disregarding of true, or listening to false Patriots? The same Causes will everlastingly produce the same Effects; it depends entirely upon Men to penetrate the Causes from which Effects flow, and if we will not give ourselves the trouble of doing this, it will be in vain for us hereafter to exclaim against Fortune, and attempt to throw the Weight of our own Folly upon Providence.

R. FREEMAN.

HOME PORTS.

Deal, April 12. Wind E. by S. Came down this Forenoon the Prince of Asturias, Cu ling, for Antigua; the Dove, Wilkinson; the Mary Ann, Cuire, for Lisbon; the Two Brothers, Orchard, for Seville; the Seafower, Atwill, for Bristol. Arrived the Amelia, Smith, from Oporto; the Briganza, Lyon, from Lisbon; and a Ship from Cadiz, unknown.

L O N D O N.

Wednesday last the Right Hon. the Earl of Crawford went down to Gravesend, there to embark for Holland, and to proceed from thence to the Russian Army to make the Campaign as a Volunteer under General Munich.

And 'tis said, that some other Persons of Distinction are also applying for Leave from his Majesty to go to the Imperial or Russian Armies, to learn the Art of War.

The last Mail from France brought nothing more material than the News that the King Don Carlos has received the Picture of the Princess Royal of Poland, by which she appears to be a very lovely handsome Lady, with bluish Eyes, fair Hair, a very white Skin, pretty long Visag'd, and very witty. It seems she has the Air of her Mother, who has taken such Care of her Education, that she is much better form'd than Princesses of her Age generally are; but she has not had the Small Pox.

Last Wednesday Night the Right Hon. the Lord Knockyn, Son to the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, arrived from his Travels in foreign Parts; his Lordship is soon to be married to Miss Pulteney of Cleveland Row, St. James's.

Capt. William Wallis is appointed Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania.

Tuesday a Match was run on Hounslow Heath, between Mr. Morgan's Grey Mare, and Mr. Bauldry's Chestnut.

Chester Gelding, four Miles for 30 Guineas a Side, which was won by the former, with ease.

To-morrow being the Birth-day of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, who then enters into the 17th Year of his Age, his Royal Highness will receive the Compliments of the Nobility and foreign Ministers on the Occasion.

Last Tuesday William Clavering, Esq; kiss'd his Majesty's Hand at St. James's, on his being appointed a Cornet in the Royal Regiment of Horse Red.

Yesterday the Right Hon. the Earl of Granard, Vice Admiral of the Blue, kiss'd his Majesty's Hand at St. James's, on his being appointed Admiral of a Squadron under Admiral Haddock.

The same Day Admiral Haddock hoisted his Flag at the Main Top-mast Head of the Somerset, at Chatham.

Capt. Barnsley is appointed Captain of his Majesty's Ship the Somerset, in the room of Capt. Lestock.

This Day his Majesty's Ships the Elizabeth, Lenox, and Kent, Third Rates of 70 Guns and 440 Men; the Princess Augusta, Worcester, Stafford, and Weymouth, Fourth Rates of 360 Men each, are to be put into Commission.

His Majesty's Ship the Experiment is put into Commission, and the Command thereof giving to Captain Boscowen.

As also his Majesty's Ship the Deal Castle, and the Command thereof given to Capt. Dennison.

Yesterday and the Night before, above 20 lewd and disorderly Women were taken up in St. James's Park, and Yesterday were examined before the Honourable Board of Green Cloth, 17 of whom were committed to Bridewell to hard Labour, and the rest were discharged.

Yesterday Morning Mr. Phillip Fonereau, Fourth Son of Mr. Claude Fonereau, a wealthy Hamburg Merchant in Size-Lane, was married at Whitehall Chapel by the Rev. Mr. Altham of Woodford in Essex, to Miss Martin, only Daughter of Mr. Martin in Pater-noster-Row, a beautiful young Lady of 6000 l. Fortune.

On Wednesday last was held at Rygate a Sessions of the Justices for the County of Surry, when it was resolved vigorously to put in Execution the Act against retailing of Spirituous Liquors.

At the same time came on the Election of a Keeper for their Worships Bridewell in Southwark, a Post of considerable Profit, vacant by the Death of Mr. Robert Peyton. There were several Candidates for the Place, but the Choice fell on Mr. Arnold, formerly a Factor of Blackwell-Hall.

Yesterday a Person was committed to Newgate for Forgery.

The same Day the Right Hon. Stephen Poyntz, Esq; Preceptor to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, came to Town with his Lady, from his Seat in Berkshire to St. James's Palace.

Yesterday one Bernard Hyde, who was convicted for stealing several Pewter Plates at the last Quarter Sessions of the Peace for the City and Liberty of Westminster, was (pursuant to his Sentence) whipp'd from the Gatehouse to Charing Cross, in a very severe Manner.

Yesterday 26 Prisoners were tried at the Old Bailey, 3 whereof were capitally Convicted, viz. Judith Murray, Phillip Murray, and William Tinman, for Coining. Fifteen were cast for Transportation, and Eight Acquitted.

Casualties, Christnings, and Burials last Week.

Drowned 4, one buried at St. Botolph without Aldgate, one at St. George in Middlesex, one at St. Paul at Shadwell, and one at St. Ann in Middlesex. Kill'd accidentally, buried at St. Ann in Westminster, one.

Christned	Males	171	Buried	Males	244
	Females	140		Females	267
	In all	311		In all	511

Increased in the Burials this Week 109.

Whereof have died,

Under 2 Years of Age	198	Forty and Fifty	43
Between 2 and 5	36	Fifty and Sixty	46
Five and Ten	8	Sixty and Seventy	54
Ten and Twenty	20	Seventy and Eighty	15
Twenty and Thirty	42	Eighty and Ninety	8
Thirty and Forty	53	Ninety and a Hundred	0

High Water this Day	Morning	Evening
at London Bridge.	05 52	06 16

Bank Stock 140 to 1-4th. India 169. South Sea 97 3 4ths. Old Annuity 110 to 1-4th. New

ditto 108 to 1-4th. Three per Cent. 103. 7 per Cent. Loan 109. 5 per Cent. ditto 97. Royal Assurance 109. London Assurance 14 7-8ths. African 13 3-4ths. India Bonds 5 l. 14 s. to 15 s. Premium. South Sea ditto 1 l. 15 s. Prem. Bank Circulation 2 l. 2 s. 6 d. Premium. Salt Talties 1 to 3 Prem. English Copper 3 l. Welsh ditto 15 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 5 1-half per Cent. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto 100. Million Bank 125.

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